AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) The All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 has come into force with effect from 28th March, 1988 and the new statutory All India Council for Technical Education has been established with effect from 12th May, 1988 by the issue of necessary notifications in the official gazette. Necessary action has also been initiated to complete as early as possible all preparations including formulation of new norms, guidelines standards, rules regulations and acquiring of facilities for the secretariat of the Council to make it operational.

The first meeting of the new statutory Council has been held on 6th July, 1988. The response of the various States has been favourable. All have welcomed the proposed role of the new statutory Council as provided in the Act.

Chartered flights from other countries

63. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that introduction of chartered flights from different countries to India has been permitted;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the share-percentage of Air India in these additional flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) In 1987-88 tourist Charters were permitted to be operated by M/s. Inspired Itineraries, U.K. for Gatwick (U.K.)—Goa, M/s. Austrian Air Transport for Vienna-Delhi, M/s. Condor, West Germany for Munich-Goa and M/s. Burma Airways for Rangoon-Calcutta.

For 1988-89 operation of tourist charters has been permitted to M/s. Kerco Charters, Canada for Toronto-Calcutta, M/s. Inspirations East Ltd., U.K. for Gatwick (U.K.)-Goa and M/s. ILG Travels Ltd., U.K. for Gatwick (U.K.)-Goa.

(c) Since no charter was or is likely to be operated by Air India the question of its percentage share does not arise.

Promotion of tourism by hotels having rating lesser than five star

64. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of having more hotels of lesser rating than five star hotels to promote tourism;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government also propose to handover tourism to the private sector; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Government recognizes the desirability of maintaining a balanced growth of hotel accommodation of all star categories so as to cater to tourists of all income groups. However, with a view to meeting the

accommodation requirements of domestic and foreign budget tourists, greater emphasis is being laid on hotels of less than 4 & 5 star categories.

(b) It is proposed to increase the rate of interest subsidy for 1, 2 and 3-Star category hotels from the present 1 per cent to 3 per cent.

(c) and (d) The Private sector is already playing a major role in the development and promotion of tourism in the country; Government is acting as a catalyst only. To encourage private investment in the tourism/hotel industry, Government has already extended several incentives/concessions to the hotel industry.

Purchase of Airbus-320

65. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement to purchase 19 Airbus-320 planes;

(b) whether Government are aware that V-2500 engines, to be fitted in Airbus-320 planes; have been rejected by the Royal Jordanian Airlines and Lufthansa Airlines;

(c) whether Government are also aware that British Airways and Air France, which are at present using 320, have grounded these planes following the crash of one plane on June 26, 1988;

(d) if so, what type of engines Government propose to get fitted in the Airbus 320; and

(e) what action Government are taking to ensure safety of passengers in case it has decided to go ahead with the purchase of this aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A-320 fleet of British Airways, Air France and Air Inter was grounded for one day only.

(d) Airbus A-320 aircraft to be acquired by the Indian Airlines will be powered with V-2500 engine.

(e) A-320 aircraft fitted with V-2500 engine will be delivered to Indian Airlines only after airworthiness certification from the Civil Aviation Authorities.

Unremunerative operations of two Crude carriers of SCI

66. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India is incurring heavy losses by the operation of two very large crude carriers, because of the unremunerative operations and heavy repair expenditure on these vessels; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to make the said ships economically viable or to abandon their sailing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The operation of the two very large crude carriers M.T. Kanchenjunga and M. T. Koyali of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. has resulted in profits in 1987-88 and this trend is expected to continue for the balance economic life of these ships i.e. upto 1991-92.